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# Newsletter from Kim Westerskov

Email: [kimworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:kimworkshops@gmail.com)

Web: [www.kimwesterskov.com](http://www.kimwesterskov.com)

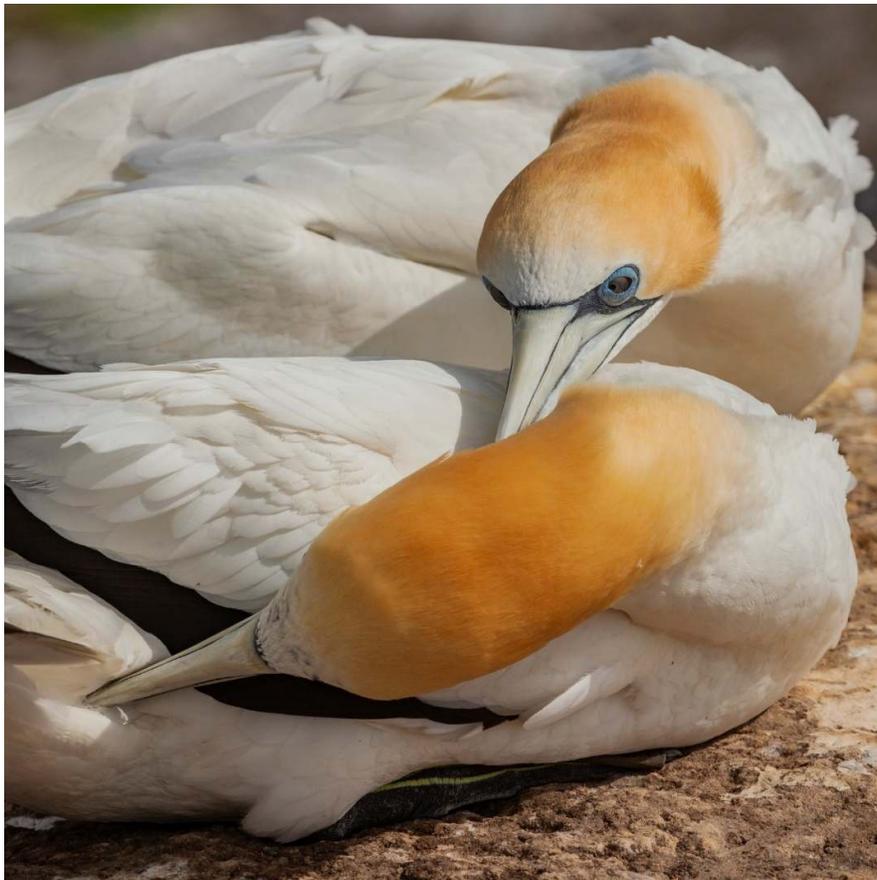
20 Greerton Road, Tauranga 3112, New Zealand

Phone 07-578-5138

## Newsletter #72 – February 2019

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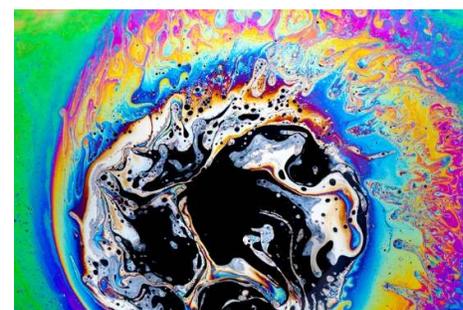
*This newsletter goes out to many photographers in New Zealand and overseas - and to anybody who asks to go onto the mailing list. If you know anybody who would like to be on the mailing list, please get them to email me. It's free and they can unsubscribe at any time, of course.*



## 1. TIPS FOR A GREAT 2019

It's reasonably simple. [Regular readers may remember this list, but at the beginning of 2019 it's good to remind ourselves].

1. Take photos – lots of them, often.
2. Learn new stuff – any way that works for you [photo clubs, online, books, workshops, tuition ...]
3. Go to new places with your camera.
4. Revisit old places with your camera. Get out there. Often.
5. Have your photos **critiqued** by people whose opinions you respect [and/or by yourself]. Ask “What worked? Why did it work? What didn't work? Why not? What can I learn from these photos?” Next time do better and try new ideas.
6. **Photograph what you love.** Photograph what especially excites you, that which you are passionate about: your cats or roses or grandkids, waterfalls, the beach, Paris ....
7. Give yourself **a project.** A Goldilocks one - not too easy, not too hard, something achievable and that you will feel good about. It doesn't really matter what it is, as long as it's something that will keep you interested for most of the year. One idea could be what I've done for the last two Christmases now - giving each family member a photo book I'd created, with photos of our family. “Family, Friends & Moments” I call them. You could do something similar. Or it could be on any other topic that interests you.
8. **Do something with your best photos** [other than just enjoying them - which you're allowed to do of course]. Print and frame the best and hang them on your wall. Or print a collection in a book [easy ... via Diamond Photo [NZ], Snapfish [NZ], Blurb etc], enter a competition, offer some good ones to a local newspaper, bring them along to show at a Tuesday night “Photos & Coffee”, share them on Facebook or among friends via email, use them to help promote some cause you're passionate about etc. **Get your best photos out there.**
9. Relax, smile, enjoy the moment. We do this for fun, remember.



## 2. FIVE WAYS TO LOSE YOUR PHOTOS - FOREVER

Before we get too excited about all the great photos we're going to take this year, let's first of all make sure that we don't lose the photos we've already taken. In the days of film, losing all your photos was harder to do. A fire would do it, of course, and that happened to one photographer I know. But other than that, you had to work pretty hard to lose all your photos.

Now in the digital age, it's easy. Here's five common ways:

1. "Oops!" Also called human error. Accidentally deleting files [in camera or on your computer], losing a hard drive, dropping a hard drive.
2. Hard drive failure. All hard drives fail. The only question is "when?" It could be in 7 year time. It could be as you're reading this. There's usually no warning. Gone. Kaput. Finito.
3. Fire, flood, lightning strike, earthquake or other disaster. "It won't happen to me". Hopefully not, but it does happen. One job I had a year or two back was rescuing photographic prints that had been water-damaged during the Christchurch earthquakes. A good friend of mine used to work in the IT sector, fixing people's computers. He said that direct lightning strikes frying computers were much more common in the Tauranga area than you'd think. "Can you save my stuff?" he would be asked. "If you didn't back it up somewhere, it's gone forever, sorry" he would have to tell them.
4. Theft. Somebody steals your stuff. It's very unlikely that they are after your photos, it's just your laptop/desktop that they are stealing. The desktop or laptop with all your photos on it. This happened to a friend of mine not so long ago.
5. Data corruption. Your usually-reliable memory card all of a sudden won't give up all the lovely photos you took today. Or the card reader goes bad. Or there is a power surge that takes out your computer. Or there is a computer or operating system error.

So - what should you do? We can look into this in more detail another time, but briefly, at the very least **follow the 3:2:1 principle**. Have every single digital photo in at least 3 places, on 2 different media [hard drives and DVDs or Blu-Ray discs are what I use], and one of the three somewhere else - a friend's place or family member's place]

## 3. FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER - VIV ADAMSON

Viv lives on her family farm in Taranaki, near Egmont Village north-east of the mountain, where she also runs two homestay cottages and looks after an extensive garden. I first met Viv when she came to a workshop here some years ago. Later I gave a public presentation [we



used to call them "slide shows"] at Puke Ariki, New Plymouth's fine, fully integrated museum, library and visitor information centre. As a result was invited to speak in May last year at the 52nd Taranaki Interclub, the annual get together of the 6 Taranaki photography groups and clubs.

Sitting on a comfortable sofa in Viv's living room looking through her photos I was impressed with what I saw and asked if she'd like to be featured in my newsletter. So here we are: a selection of Viv's fine photos and some words from her. "Just write a bit about yourself and your photography please" was Viv's brief:

**Viv Adamson** [APSNZ]: "Family is important to me, being Nana to 12 young grandchildren, also part-time dairy farmer, homestay hostess and have my large gardens in annual Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival. Photography is my passion. It is something that can be done anywhere – when confined to the house, surrounded by grandies, over the farm, out in the garden or going somewhere in the car - always on the lookout. I have always taken a camera on holidays for as long as I can remember. I love to travel and especially to experience the different cultures and nature.



I always have my camera ready. I often shoot on the run as when you are travelling with a group you have to make the most of the opportunities that you can grab. Always keeping my eye out for that "something different".

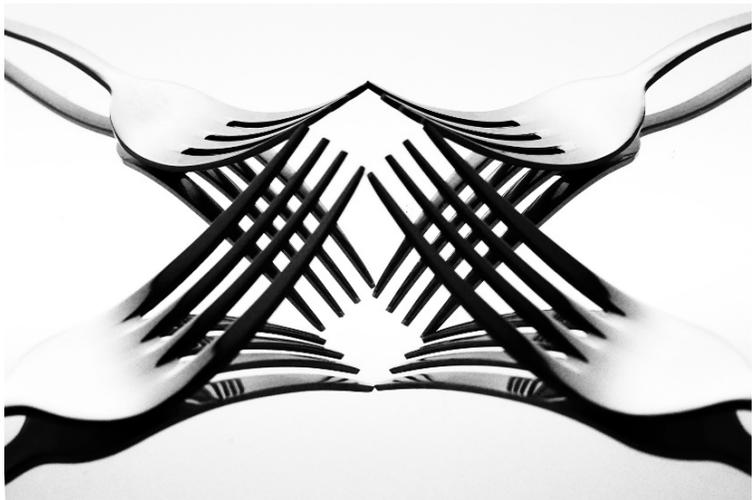
I attempt all types of photography from landscape, people, nature and love the challenge that creativity offers. I will often see an image either in a magazine or on the internet and think "I can do that". Unfortunately they never let you know how they achieved the image so the challenge is to work it out.



I use basic household items, often visiting the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand shops for items to help achieve my results and I take it all "in camera" [I haven't got time to learn Photoshop]. I especially love the multiple exposure mode in my camera. I am a member of the Inglewood Photography Group and love the challenge of the monthly set subject competition.

In 2004 I won the PSNZ Gold Medal and Maadi Cup for my mono print of children in Vanuatu [next page]. In 2012 I won the PSNZ Nature Print Gold Medal for my image of two yellow hornbills and scorpion" [at right].





## 4. "MENTORING BY KIM" - 2 spaces left for 2019

Mentoring each photographer to the best of my ability is time-intensive, so I'm only able to officially mentor a small number of photographers at any one time. At present there are only two places left for "Mentoring by Kim" in 2019. If you're interested, read on and then contact me.

"Mentoring by Kim" is for serious photographers who want to get better, much better, to make more compelling images, and who realize that good [and great] photography is not something that you can spend a few hours on and "have it sorted" by 7 pm tonight.

How good do you have to be? It absolutely doesn't matter, truly. I'm just as happy mentoring keen beginners who know nothing much more than where the "Auto" button is through to successful professionals. The kind of camera and lenses you have don't matter either. All that matters is that you are keen and willing to put some effort into learning and trying. It's a journey, and for that reason "Mentoring by Kim" is for a minimum of 6 months. After that you can choose to finish or to carry on.



So what happens during that time? Whatever is needed to make you a better photographer. Mentoring is the ongoing process of inspiring, advising, guiding, teaching, critiquing - whatever is needed for your ongoing development as a photographer. It's one-on-one, so it's different for each person. One day it may be about equipment or Photoshop, next week it may be "I just want my photos to have more 'Wow' in them", the following month it may be about exhibitions or "Should I go pro?"

Do you need to live in Tauranga or travel to Tauranga for mentoring? Not really. Face-to-face time every now and then is great, but most mentoring can be done by email or over the phone [or Skype]. One photographer I've mentored for some years lives in Dunedin and although we're in contact often, I see him only once every few years. Another photographer lives an hour's drive from Tauranga, and comes over for a full day with me once every month or so. Between visits, we're regularly in contact, often daily.

For a very reasonable \$450 per month you get access to me pretty much whenever you want. But most importantly, we do whatever is best for you. I take the mentoring seriously and I'm there for you. I want you to succeed. As a bonus, I'm pleased to offer you attendance at any or all of the workshops during the mentoring period, at no charge [free] other than a payment of \$30 per day to cover catering.

Here's what two photographers I've been mentoring said:

**Pam Thomson [Te Awamutu]:** "I have been mentored by Kim for about 5 months now, and have wanted to do it for a couple of years. I wish I had done it sooner. Kim is a wonderful Mentor, gives great encouragement, and has so much knowledge to share... He gives very honest, thoughtful, critique. The Mentoring is led by you".

**Derek Morrison [Dunedin], 2018 New Zealand Geographic Photographer of the Year:** "Kim is, without doubt, one of the best – he is proactive, really knows his stuff and genuinely drills into the creative process, pain and dreams... I wanted a raw and unfiltered appraisal of where I was at and where I wanted to go. I got that with Kim". Was there any connection between the mentoring and your NZ Geographic Photographer of the Year win? "Of course".

## 5. PHOTO WALK - McLaren Falls Park - 10<sup>th</sup> February - free

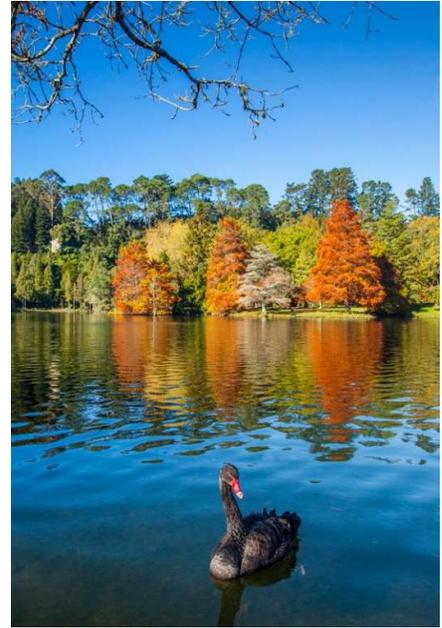
So what are you doing Sunday morning the 10<sup>th</sup> of February? Why not join me for my very first "Photo Walk" at McLaren Falls Park. A year or two back, Matt at Carters Photographics [Tauranga] invited me along on a Photo Walk he'd organized for World Photo Day. A group of keen photographers [including Tauranga's mayor] spent three pleasant hours at McLaren Falls Park, and I later thought "Maybe I should organize one of these for "my photographers". So I have.

We'll meet at the café [next to the information centre] at McLaren Falls Park at 9.00 am on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February, and then spend the next three hours photographing - and chatting if you wish to chat. We'll finish at 12.00 noon, and then those who want a coffee or lunch [or both] plus a chat will descend on the café. During the walk you're



very welcome - encouraged in fact - to ask me anything you like about photography, or just chat about your own photography, or whatever. It will be an informal, friendly few hours, with no formal structure.

It's free [no charge], but please email me to let me know if you're coming. See you there?



## 6. KIM'S PHOTOS & COFFEE EVENINGS

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month of the year [except January], chat informally about photography, and view some of the recent [or not-so-recent] photos we've taken. It's **free [no charge]**, **supper is served**, and there's no obligation of any kind. **Please email me if you'd like to come** [it's not a big room so I need to keep an eye on numbers]. These evenings are always fun and friendly - there's usually many smiles and laughs. It's a great way of meeting up with like-minded people, **being inspired by the creativity of our group of photographers, and coming away with new ideas and tips**. There's a wide range of interests and abilities - so for those of you who have not been before, you're very unlikely to feel out of your depth. Bring photos if you wish, but there's no obligation to bring any. Many do, some don't.

The first one of 2019 will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, starting 7.00pm. 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, Tauranga. Free, but please book by email.

The March meeting will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, as I will be away the previous week.

## 7. LANDSCAPES & SEASCAPES WORKSHOP – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February



Aaaah, landscapes! There's not many of us who don't photograph landscapes some of the time – or most of the time. On a good day, we'll come back with some photos we're reasonably happy with. Occasionally very happy. But on other days [far too many] there's nothing we took that approaches the specialness of what was in front of us when the shutter clicked. Something got lost in the translation. The landscape you were standing in front of looked great – which is why to you took the photo[s]. Unfortunately, gremlins from a parallel universe got into your memory card and by the time you looked at the photos on your computer, they didn't look anywhere near as good as you hoped, and expected.

This workshop is about correcting that - de-gremlinizing your landscape photos and showing you how to get the good gremlins [from a different parallel universe] to help make your landscape photos "POP!". Translating the "Wow" you felt standing in front of a good landscape into a "Wow" photo. Techniques, approaches, tips, tricks.

Landscape is a big topic and there's many ways of approaching it, so we'll be covering a lot of ground. Topics covered will include:

- Grand [Classic] Landscapes and Intimate Landscapes
- Why landscapes are both easy and hard at the same time - and what to do about it

- Extractive landscapes
- Dynamic landscapes and quiet landscapes
- Figures in the landscape
- Common landscape problems – and their solutions
- Technical stuff AND creative stuff
- Common mistakes
- Clouds, weather, light
- Time of day, sunrise/sunset, “golden hour”, blue hour”
- Stars & night photography
- Getting your composition right. The importance of foregrounds
- Forests, hills, mountains, waterfalls, geothermal areas
- Water: waterfalls, rivers, lakes, estuaries
- Sea shores
- Dealing with scruffy foregrounds, “blah” backgrounds & boring skies
- Lens choice: wide angle vs normal vs telephoto
- Your gear: camera, lenses, tripods, filters etc.
- Colour or black and white?
- Depth of field. Hyperfocal distance explained and made simple
- Choosing the best camera modes and settings
- Some good places to go
- Post-processing – polishing your photos so they look great.



It's a huge and very rewarding subject. One of the best that photography has to offer. Care to join me?

Cost: The full course fee [which includes tuition, hand-outs, Vivienne's yummy catering, assignment, and follow-up] is **\$295**, dropping to **\$245** for Early Birds if you register by 13<sup>th</sup> February. Students with ID \$150.





## 8. Kim's 2019 PROGRAMME - is there something here for you?

### FEBRUARY

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February – the first “Photos & Coffee” meeting of the year. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Photo Walk at McLaren Falls.** 9.00 am - 12.00 noon. Free.
- **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. “Landscapes & Seascapes”** photo workshop. Full day plus follow-up.

### MARCH

- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March. “Waterfalls, Ferns & Forests”.** Full day plus follow-up.

### APRIL

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. “Sea, Surf, Shore & Seabirds”** workshop. Full day plus follow-up.
- **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April. “Travel”** workshop. Half day.

### MAY

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. “New Photo Techniques”** workshop. Full day plus follow-up.

### JUNE

- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June. “Photo Essentials”** workshop. Full day plus follow-up.

### JULY

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. “Photo Impressionism”** workshop. Full day plus follow-up.

### AUGUST

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August. “Black & White”** photo workshop. Full day plus follow-up.

### SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. “People”** workshop. Portraits, kids, families, candid, travel, events, weddings. Full day plus follow-up.

### OCTOBER

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October. “Good photos, great photos – anytime, anywhere”** workshop. Full day plus follow-up.

### NOVEMBER

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

### DECEMBER

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

Half-day workshops 9.00am – 1.00pm

Full day workshops 9.00am – 5.00pm

**COST:** Course fees include tuition, detailed hand-outs, yummy catering, plus [for most full-day workshops] an assignment and follow-up evening.

- **Half day workshops:** \$135 – or \$115 for Early Birds if you register by 10 days before workshop. Fulltime students with ID \$70.
- **One day workshops:** \$295 – or \$245 for Early Birds if you register by 10 days before workshop. Fulltime students with ID \$150.

## 9. PRIVATE TUITION

Yes, like you I'm usually busy doing "other stuff" too, but I can nearly always fit private tuition in, and am very happy to do so. First 2 hours: \$80 per hour, after that \$70 per hour. If you come again, it's \$70 per hour right from the first hour. Think not just about cost, but "value" – it's one-on-one with an experienced photographer and teacher and we cover a lot each hour.

Or – for just the cost of a full-day workshop [with Early Bird discount] - \$245 – you get my full attention - one-on-one - for 4 hours. This can be out in the field or at my studio, looking at your photos on my computer, going over your camera functions, looking into specific techniques, or all of the above and more – whatever you want to do. I'm here for you. For only \$475 you have me for the whole day.

## 10. PHOTOGRAPHING ARTWORKS, PHOTOSHOPPING, PHOTO RESTORATION

As well as teaching photography and mentoring a number of photographers, I also offer photo restoration, Photoshopping, and "Photographing your Artworks" services. \$50 per hour [we usually get a lot done each hour].

## 11. INVITATION TO ALL CAMERA CLUBS & GROUPS

If your club or group might be interested in hosting one of my presentations - or workshops - or "Field Trip + Photo Critique" days, please get in touch.

## ABOUT KIM

- Passionate about photography and passionate about inspiring, guiding, and supporting photographers.
- Over 30 years as a professional photographer
- Five First Prizes in the BBC "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" competition, the Olympics of nature photography worldwide.
- 18 books published – written and photographed by Kim. Five are currently still "in print".
- Teaching & mentoring photographers for over 10 years now